

exception of a slight elevation between the Monocacy and Potomac rivers, has only a single summit, and across this summit a track has been gained of so easy access, as to occasion but little difficulty, or increase of expense to the transportation. By pursuing the Valley of the Potomac, the Road may be continued, if desired, without one additional summit to the Eastern base of the Alleghany mountain, and would then exhibit a Rail Way of about 180 miles, with but one summit requiring stationary power, a result which it is believed, has not been paralleled either in this country or in Europe. From the Eastern base of this mountain, the Road can be conducted by a series of Inclined Planes, and the aid of stationary engines, over that ridge to its Western Side, without any diminution in the speed of travelling, and thence it may be carried by a regular graduation, adapted to locomotive power, to the Ohio River.

The result of the late improvements in the construction of Locomotive Engines in Europe, and in the application of Steam Power to them, fully warrant your Memorialists in asserting, that upon a well constructed Rail Road, the Mail might, with regularity and certainty, be conveyed from the seat of the general Government to the State of Ohio, in thirty-six hours, or even in less time, should it be desirable. Passengers could also be conveyed in the same time at one-third the expense now incurred, and produce of all kinds at a proportionate reduction of cost.

At the time your Memorialists embarked in this enterprise, they did not hesitate to believe, that so enlightened a body as the Congress of the United States, would fully appreciate the vast importance of the undertaking, whether considered in reference to its social, its commercial or its political influence upon our country, and they have always looked with confidence to the aid of the general government in carrying it into operation. Believing, as your Memorialists do, that every section of our country has a deep and vital interest in this great work, and that the countenance and support of the National Legislature, would essentially promote its early and successful accomplishment, they respectfully ask the attention of Congress to the subject, and confidently hope that a subscription, on the part of the United States, to the Stock Company, will be authorised to such extent as in their wisdom may be deemed for the interest of the Nation.